

THE BICENTENNIAL OF MONROE,  
NEW YORK

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note to our colleagues that the Town of Monroe, New York, in my congressional district is currently celebrating its 200th anniversary.

With its population estimated in 1996 to be nearly 26,000, the Town of Monroe has long been considered one of the major hubs of our Hudson River valley. Within the boundaries of the Town are three incorporated villages: the Village of Monroe (incorporated in 1894), the Village of Harriman (incorporated in 1914), and the Village of Kiryas Joel (incorporated in 1977).

The Village of Monroe sprang up along a mill pond created by the construction of a dam and grist mill constructed prior to the Revolutionary War. Soon, stagecoach routes, inns, and taverns grew along Monroe's Mill Pond, and soon the community became the economic and social focal point of the area.

The Village of Harriman was the site of a creamery and grist mill, which early in this century became the site of the estate of the railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman. The Village was named in his honor, and became the home of his son, Averill, who served as a cabinet member, diplomat, and Governor of New York.

The Village of Kiryas Joel is the second legally incorporated community of Hasidic Jews in the world. The community is a unique village where traditional values and the centrality of family are the guiding principles of community life. To preserve these values, Kiryas Joel remains without television or radio.

The entire Town of Monroe has enjoyed a varied history over the past 200 years. In the earliest days, it was known for its iron mines and smelting furnaces. The famous giant chain which was stretched across the Hudson River to prevent invasion by the British army was forged in Monroe. The Monroe iron mines thrived as late as the 1880's.

For many years, Monroe was the center of a thriving dairy and cheese industry. We forget today that the concept of shipping fresh milk from the farm to the city is a relatively new concept which did not come about until the advent of the railroads. The Town of Monroe was host to a variety of dairy farms, and beginning in 1841 what are now the Villages of Monroe and Harriman were the railroad terminals from which dairy products were shipped.

But it is for cheese that Monroe is most famous. Two types of cheese beloved throughout the world—velveeta and liederkranz—were invented in Monroe and originally manufactured at the factory operated by Emil Frey.

Today, the Monroe Cheese Festival is the biggest and most successful event held annually in Monroe. Conceived by Village Mayor Robert Bonney—who tragically passed away soon after he "sold" the festival idea to the community—the cheese festival annually attracts thousands of visitors of all ages to the community from far and wide.

In 1997, a local newspaper reporter wrote that: "There are few places where a kid can

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

wear a giant foam cheese wedge on his head and still look pretty cool. A Green Bay Packer game may be one. Another, most definitely, is the Monroe Cheese Festival."

Other long time traditions which permeate Monroe are the Mombasha Fire Department, over 100 years old, and the Museum Village, which preserves for tourists and scholars a typical colonial community. The legendary showman, George M. Cohan, was a resident of Monroe. When in his declining years the classic motion picture biography of his life, "Yankee Doodle Dandy" was released, he was too ill to travel to New York City for the grand premiere. So a special screening for Cohan and his family was arranged to take place at the Mombasha Fire House. Mr. Cohan applauded the portrayal of his life story by the legendary Jimmy Cagney.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of a new millennium, the Town of Monroe and the three Villages within its boundaries all look forward to the third hundred years with a sense of confidence that the challenges of tomorrow will be met.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of our colleagues to join with me in saluting the town of Monroe, New York, on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN M. MELTZ

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stephen M. Meltz on his sixtieth birthday. Stephen will gather with his friends and family to celebrate this momentous occasion just after Thanksgiving. Stephen was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 15, 1939, to Jacob and Cecilia Meltz. He is married to Nadine (Greenberg) Meltz and has two sons: David and Gary. Stephen has lived in Chicago his entire life. He attended college at the University of Chicago, receiving both his undergraduate degree in political science and his M.B.A. at the prestigious university. He also served his country proudly in the United States Army Reserve.

Stephen M. Meltz is currently the President of Stephen M. Meltz and Associates, a C.P.A. firm located in Lincolnwood, Illinois. It is a successful business, where his clients know that the work done by Stephen's firm is both professional and honest. For the last year his son David Meltz has joined him at the firm, which now makes it truly a family business. But for all the success Stephen has had in his professional life, I know that his family is his greatest sense of pride and accomplishment.

Stephen has always made the best interests of his family his primary concern. He has taken care of his wife, his children, his parents, his wife's parents and many members of his extended family with loving care. He saw to it that his children received the best educations available. He made sure that the final years of his and his wife's parents were lived with dignity and comfort. Like many fathers, his dedication to his family has sometimes gone unnoticed, but he does not care for his loved ones for accolades, but because he

*November 18, 1999*

loves his family. For all these reasons, Stephen is a patriarch in the truest sense of the term. A pillar of integrity that all his family can lean on in their hour of need and celebrate with during times of joy.

Mr. Speaker, it is often said, that the road to the Underworld is paved with good intentions. Contrary to this premise, Stephen M. Meltz has always had honor and a strong core of moral beliefs and intentions, and his actions have always mirrored those values. Aristotle said, "In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." Stephen's rewards are both a devout family and loyal friends who have witnessed his lifelong "good qualities in action" and will honor him over dinner on his sixtieth birthday.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I am particularly pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate Stephen M. Meltz, on his sixtieth birthday, because his son Gary C. Meltz is a member of my staff here in Washington, DC. Gary asked me to put into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a speech to commemorate his father's birthday. I am honored to do this for Gary and his father. I urge all my colleagues to join me now in wishing Stephen M. Meltz a happy sixtieth birthday and Godspeed.

M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives a recent article about the wonderful medical advances at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. The article tells the stories of two people, a young college student and the former Speaker of the House Jim Wright, dealing with cancer of the jaw and their experiences with this once debilitating disease. Their respective stories highlight the need to support our Nation's cancer centers and highlight how medical advances can truly give Americans hope where none previously existed.

Reconstructing Lives by Mary Jane Schier—For 19-year old James Smith, the quality of survival from cancer of the jaw is paramount in order to pursue his dream of playing professional football.

Smith is a junior majoring in health and human performance at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA, where he was an outstanding defensive tackle until diagnosed with a disease uncommon among teenagers.

He and his family were stunned to learn in November 1998 that he had a tumor in his right mandible, the horseshoe-shaped bone that forms the lower jaw. The mandible, he knows, is the largest and strongest bone in the face.

Smith was forced to take an extended timeout from the football team to begin the biggest challenge of his young life. Upon coming to M.D. Anderson, he joined a new team whose members are nationally ranked for treating head and neck cancers.

The head coaches in the multidisciplinary treatment regimen that Smith received are Dr.